



Michigan Nurses Association

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TO: Members, House Commerce Committee

FROM: Tom Bissonnette MS, RN, Executive Director
Michigan Nurses Association

DATE: June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: House Bill 6213
Michigan Nurses Association Position: Oppose

The major concerns expressed by nurses in Michigan about House Bill 6213 are described below.

1. Nurses are well known to enjoy flexible, condensed work schedules which are permitted by an exemption in federal law, commonly known as the 8/80 exemption. We believe this exemption would continue without a change in current Michigan law. As we know, where differences between state and federal law exist, whichever law is more beneficial to employees will control. We believe it is more beneficial for employees for the 8/80 federal exemption to control.
2. The Michigan Nurses Association continues to negotiate labor contracts for its members that include overtime provisions. Current Michigan law supports these negotiated overtime provisions, and we see no need to change.
3. House Bill 6213 is an unnecessary bill which detracts attention from issues of utmost importance to nurses: mandatory overtime, staffing ratios, and safe patient handling. Legislators have introduced bills, HB 4101 and 4216, which provide solutions to some of these critical issues and are awaiting action.